

Amendments to the Abstract:

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 13 line 1, as follows:

--ABSTRACT--

Please amend the paragraph of the English translation document at page 13 line 1, after the newly added ABSTRACT section heading, as follows:

In a communications network, one component at a time can be monitored by at least one other component. To this end, a monitoring task is issued by a monitoring component, whereby this monitoring task contains the address of said component. Each component, which can be monitored and which monitors, is provided with communications means for carrying out direct data exchange. The monitoring component transmits the monitoring task directly to the component, which is to be monitored and which comprises both storage means for storing the addresses contained in the monitoring tasks as well as monitoring means for monitoring the state. A communications means is used to directly transmit a state to be monitored to the monitoring component at least in the event of a state change.